

Honoring Our Commitment to America's Veterans

Congressman Rubén Hinojosa:

Serving the Veterans of the
15th Congressional District of Texas

**Are You Having Problems
With Your Veterans' Benefits?**

**Congressman Hinojosa's
Office Wants to Help.**



*Congressman Hinojosa discusses his efforts to
increase funding for veterans' benefits.*

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Congressman Rubén Hinojosa Fighting for Texas Veterans

No one has paid a higher price for our freedom than our veterans. And in return for the sacrifice of all those who have served in uniform, our nation has made a sacred pact that we will always take care of you. I am committed to doing everything possible to ensure that our nation honors this pledge.

Rubén Hinojosa

Strengthening the GI Bill of Rights

In 1944, Congress enacted the GI Bill of Rights to assist WWII veterans; it is time we renew our commitment to all our veterans. Earlier this year, I jointly introduced the “GI Bill of Rights for the 21st Century.” This legislation will make health care accessible and affordable for veterans, honors the families of those who lost their lives while in service to the country, strengthens services for men and women in uniform, and improves health and education benefits for the National Guard and reservists.

Ending the Disabled Veterans Tax

For too many years, military retirees and disabled veterans have been subject to a disability tax that offsets their disability benefits from their military pension. I have cosponsored numerous bills to end this unfair practice and voted for the 2004 Defense Authorization Bill, which allows some disabled veterans to receive their military and disability pensions. I will continue to fight to end this tax permanently for every veteran.

Funding Veterans Health Care

It's unacceptable that veterans wait months to receive the care they need. Unfortunately, the 2005 budget drastically underfunded the VA and raised health care costs for over 1 million veterans. To ensure adequate funding, I co-sponsored the Assured Funding for Veterans Health Care Act, which locks down funding for veterans health care and will ensure that benefits aren't cut from year to year.

Increasing the Death Benefit

I fully support the Pentagon proposal to raise the “death gratuity” for troops to \$100,000 and life insurance coverage from \$150,000, to \$400,000. I believe we should expand the plan so that it does not limit higher death benefits to troops killed in designated combat zones. All troops who die serving this country should be eligible.

More Services for Texas Veterans

Since coming to Congress, my staff and I have assisted veterans with health care benefits, disability claims, and medal and decoration replacements. Here are some of the things I have done to help:

- Persuaded the VA to expand outpatient services at the McAllen Veterans Clinic and to pay for most “in-patient” health care.
- Secured federal matching funds for the creation of the new veterans nursing home in Edinburg, and a new federal/state veterans cemetery in Mission.
- Assisted hundreds of veterans with health and disability benefits, medal and decoration replacements, and document retrievals.



Congressman Hinojosa meets with Sergeant Kristoffer Villarreal upon his return from a tour of duty in Iraq and receives a firsthand account of the status of the war on terrorism.